

Message Text

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20

ACTION EA-14

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R 150440Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2341

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

UNCLAS CANBERRA 0266

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PP, AS

SUBJECT: PNG OFFICES OPENED IN CANBERRA AND SYDNEY

1. IN PRESS RELEASE ISSUED JANUARY 10, 1974, DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ANNOUNCED OPENING OF OFFICE OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA GOVERNMENT COMMISSIONER IN CANBERRA AND A PNG GOVERNMENT OFFICE IN SYDNEY. CANBERRA OFFICE LOCATED IN CANBERRA SUBURB OF RED HILL, LOCATION OF MANY OTHER DIPLOMATIC OFFICES AND RESIDENCES.

2. IN SAME RELEASE, IT IS ANNOUNCED THAT OALA OALA RARUA IS PNG COMMISSIONER LOCATED IN CANBERRA. OTHER MEMBERS OFF STAFF INCLUDE TONY FARAOP, DOMINIC DIYA, AND TORO AIHI AS MEMBERS OF STAFF.

3. COMMENT: DFA OFFICE OF PROTOCOL HAS INDICATED TO MEMBERS OF DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY IN CANBERRA THAT WHILE PNG COMMISSIONER HAS NO FORMAL DIPLOMATIC STATUS AND BEING A PAPUAN, IN FACT, IS AN AUSTRALIAN CITIZEN, THAT IT IS HOPED NORMAL DIPLOMATIC COURTESIES WILL BE EXTENDED TO PNG OFFICERS, BOTH IN SYDNEY AND IN CANBERRA. THE ASSUMPTION IS THAT CANBERRA OFFICE WILL BECOME HIGH UNCLASSIFIED

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COMMISSION AT TIME OF PNG INDEPENDENCE WHEN SYDNEY OFFICE

WILL BECOME CONSULATE GENERAL.

4. OALA OALA RARUA WAS AT ONE TIME A BUDDING PNG POLITICIAN. HE DECLINED, HOWEVER, TO STAND FOR OFFICE IN THE 1972 ELECTIONS AND SUBSEQUENTLY BECAME MAYOR OF PORT MORESBY AND THE APPOINTED HEAD OF THE PNG LABOR COMMISSION. HIS APPOINTMENT AS A DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVE IN CANBERRA MAY WELL FORESHADOW HIS APPOINTMENT IN DUE COURSE TO OTHER PNG POST LIKE NEW YORK OR LONDON. OALA IS ON STRONG AND FRIENDLY PERSONAL TERMS WITH CHIEF MINISTER SOMARE AND UNDOUBTEDLY ENJOYS SOMARE'S CONFIDENCE IN HIS NEW APPOINTMENT. BOTH FARAPO AND DIYA HAVE HAD A PERIOD OF EXPOSURE TO FOREIGN SERVICE WORK THROUGH RECENT ATTACHEMENT AS TRAINEES IN THE AUSTRALIAN FOREIGN SERVICE.
HARROP

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Message Attributes

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